



Police officers arrive to the funeral of New York Police Department Officer Wenjian Liu at Aievoli Funeral Home, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, in the Brooklyn borough of New York. Liu and his partner, officer Rafael Ramos, were killed Dec. 20 as they sat in their patrol car on a Brooklyn street. The shooter, Ismaaiyl Brinsley, later killed himself. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)



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JAEGER-LECOULTRE

Grieving, Grievance at New York City Police Funeral



Some police officers, left, turn their backs in a sign of disrespect as Mayor Bill de Blasio speaks as others, at right front line, stand at attention, during the funeral of New York Police Department Officer Wenjian Liu at Aievoli Funeral Home, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, in the Brooklyn borough of New York. Liu and his partner, officer Rafael Ramos, were killed Dec. 20 as they sat in their patrol car on a Brooklyn street. The shooter, Ismaaiyl Brinsley, later killed himself.

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

J. DAVID GOODMAN

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NEW YORK - For the second time in just over a week, a sea of pressed blue uniforms filled some of New York's streets as Mayor Bill de Blasio delivered a eulogy for a police officer killed because of the badge he wore.

On Sunday, the mayor praised the officer, Wenjian Liu, as an example of a "brave" and "kind" New Yorker who came to the city from China and followed his dream to join the Police Department.

But as de Blasio spoke, some of the thousands of police officers crowded together in the rain turned their backs, also for the second time, to television screens showing the mayor's remarks, outside the funeral home in southern Brooklyn.

The silent show of disrespect had been anticipated after a similar display the previous weekend at the funeral of Officer Rafael Ramos, in Queens.

It came despite a request on Friday from the police commissioner, William J. Bratton, that officers not let their anger with the mayor distract from the funeral and the grieving family.

Police officers from New York as well as those some of those who joined them

in mourning from around the country appeared to turn their backs.

"We had lost a man who had embodied our city's most cherished values," the mayor said in his remarks. "Detective Liu's dream was clear and it was a noble one: to don the blue uniform, to pin on the badge, to dedicate himself to protecting and serving the city he loved."

Once de Blasio finished his remarks and Bratton started speaking, nearly all the officers who had turned their backs appeared to turn back into formation.

Liu and Ramos, killed on Dec. 20 and posthumously promoted to detective, were shot in their parked patrol car in Brooklyn by a man who had announced on social media his intention to kill police officers. Their murders shook a city already roiled by weeks of protests over policing practices and devastated an already demoralized Police Department.

On Sunday, thousands of New York police officers mixed in the closed streets around the Aievoli Funeral Home in southern Brooklyn with throngs from the Chinese-American community to which Liu belonged.

Blue bows adorned trees and telephone poles. Firefighters hung giant flags

from the side of a building along with a banner of support.

On a bagel shop storefront across from the funeral home, a message written in Chinese read: "Officer Wenjian Liu will live in our heart forever."

The director of the FBI, James B. Comey, spoke during the ceremony, which began shortly after 11 a.m., as did Liu's father, Wei Tang Liu, who tearfully delivered his remarks.

"No words can express my sadness," Liu said, in Chinese. "He called me every day before he finished work, to assure me that he is safe, and to tell me, 'Dad, I'm coming home today, you can stop worrying now.'"

Wenjian Liu, known as Joe to many of his colleagues

in the 84th Precinct where he last worked, came with his parents to the United States from China at the age of 12. An only child, he studied in the city's public schools. His father worked in a garment factory.

As an adult, Liu was proud of his work in the Police Department, his family said. He enjoyed fishing, they said, and shared what he caught in the waterways in and around the city with relatives and friends.

The funeral was believed to be the city's first for a Chinese-American officer killed in the line of duty, prompting the increasingly diverse Police Department to draw on its growing knowledge of ceremonial rites and to adapt its own traditions to the desires of the grieving family. □

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7-year-old Kentucky plane crash survivor may help probe



Salvage workers bring out part of a Piper PA-34's fuselage, wing, and landing gear from a crash site Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015 in Kuttawa, Ky. Officials from the National Transportation Safety Board arrived at the crash site Sunday in Kentucky in which a 7-year-old girl survived and four of her family members were killed. The plane went down in a deeply wooded area and required special machinery to remove.

TIMOTHY D. EASLEY

Associated Press

EDDYVILLE, Kentucky (AP)

— Sailor Gutzler, the 7-year-old girl who survived a plane crash, walked a mile (1.6 kilometers) through the cold, dark woods to safety

and then helped authorities locate the wreckage and remains of her family, may not be done helping investigators.

National Transportation Safety Board investigator Heidi Moats said Sunday

(AP Photo/Timothy D. Easley)

that Sailor is "one remarkable young lady," and she might be able to assist them in determining what brought the plane down. It is rare for someone to survive a small plane crash and Moats said they want

to talk to Sailor about it.

"Having someone that is a witness (is) always helpful in the investigation, it gives us kind of a story line," Moats said.

It's not clear when investigators might talk to Sailor, who despite being bloodied and suffering a broken wrist, pulled herself from the wreckage and walked to the nearest home. She was dressed for Florida, where her family had been visiting, and was wearing shorts, a short-sleeve shirt and only one sock when she found a home about a mile from the crash site. Authorities said she walked through thick woods and briar patches in near-freezing temperatures.

"She absolutely went to the nearest house that she could have," Kentucky State Police Lt. Brent White said. "But it was still a considerable feat for her to do that." The remains of the Piper PA-34 plane were moved Sunday so officials with the NTSB can inspect it. They haven't discussed any possibilities of what brought the plane down or how Sailor survived the crash.

The agency will issue a preliminary report in about 10 days, Moats said at a news conference in Eddyville. Sailor was treated at a hospital and released to a relative Saturday.

After the Friday night crash, Sailor trekked to the home of 71-year-old Larry Wilkins, who answered her knock at the door and called police. Wilkins said the girl was crying and covered in blood.

"She told me that her mom and dad were dead, and she had been in a plane crash, and the plane was upside down," Wilkins said. Sailor was alert and able to point emergency workers looking for the plane in the right direction, said Lyon County Judge executive Wade White, who arrived at the crash site.

The crash killed Sailor's parents, Marty Gutzler, 48; and his wife, Kimberly Gutzler, 46; Sailor's sister, Piper Gutzler, 9; and a cousin, Sierra Wilder, 14. All were from Nashville, Illinois.

White said the father's body was "the last one they pulled out because of how deep he was buried." □

Passengers angry over 12-hour tarmac wait

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Hundreds of air travelers landed in San Francisco, safe but irritated after a 28-hour overseas flight they say included 12 hours on a tarmac in the Middle East without food or accurate flight information. Tempers grew short on Etihad Airlines Flight 183 when fog in the city of Abu Dhabi delayed take-off for a half-day, passengers told San Francisco broadcaster KGO.

"They kept telling us that we were going to leave, you know 15 minutes from now, 20 minutes from now,

30 minutes for now, for 12 hours," passenger Thomas Piani told reporters in San Francisco after finally landing in the city on Saturday evening.

Passengers said the flight crew told them the Abu Dhabi airport was too crowded with other stranded flights to allow them to get off the plane to wait.

"Everybody was fighting with each other, and the flight attendants were fighting with us, and we were fighting with the flight attendants," passenger Venkatesh Pahwa

said. Etihad, a national airline of the United Arab Emirates, which includes Abu Dhabi, said in a statement on its website that fog had delayed flights and caused airport congestion. The airline apologized for travelers' inconvenience but said the delays were beyond its control.

Etihad spokespeople did not immediately respond to an after-hours request from The Associated Press for comment on passengers' complaints about conditions onboard during the wait on the tarmac. □



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Here come the freshmen: Congress' newest class

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress' approval rating hovers around 15 percent, but there's one group of people excited about the institution: the newly elected lawmakers who are about to join its ranks.

The House will welcome 58 freshmen this coming week, including 43 Republicans and 15 Democrats, pushing the Republican majority to 246 members, the most since the onset of the Great Depression in 1930.

In the Senate, 13 new lawmakers, all but one of them Republican, will be sworn in, flipping control of the 100-member chamber to the Republicans with 54 seats.

The incoming classes will bring new gender and racial diversity to Capitol Hill, with 104 women in the House and Senate and close to 100 black, Hispanic and Asian lawmakers. The newcomers include the youngest woman elected to Congress, 30-year-old Elise Stefanik of New York, and the first black Republican woman, Mia Love of Utah.

As the new members prepared to arrive on Capitol Hill, several said they brought hopes of curbing the often partisan atmosphere in Washington, showing the public that they really can govern and, just maybe, get Congress' approval rating back up past 20 percent.

"This election was not an en-

dorsement of either party, it was a condemnation of, yes, the president's policies, but also of government dysfunction," said Republican Rep.-elect Carlos Curbelo, who defeated a Democratic incumbent in Florida. "I

THE MILLENNIALS

Stefanik, a Republican, is one of several young new faces bringing fresh blood to Capitol Hill, where many lawmakers, especially senators, are in their 70s or even



In this October 2014 photo, then-Massachusetts Democratic Congressional candidate, now Rep.-elect Seth Moulton, waves as he arrives at a campaign event in Lynn, Mass.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

hope we can be different. ... I hope we focus on getting things done."

A few of the notable new arrivals:

older. Others are Democrats Seth Moulton of Massachusetts, who is 36, and Ruben Gallego of Arizona, who's 35. The three all graduated

from Harvard University and have friends in common, Gallego said.

Gallego said the three have already discussed areas of cooperation, such as infrastructure investments and bringing down the cost of college.

"We have talked actually a lot, and I can definitely see us working together," Gallego said. "We all want the same things in the general scheme of things — a stable country, a prosperous future. We may not agree 100 percent on how to get there but I think Democrats and Republicans do want to find a way."

THE EXPERIENCED HANDS

Two of the newcomers to Congress are not new to Washington at all.

In Michigan, Democrat Debbie Dingell is replacing her husband, John Dingell, the longest-serving member of Congress, who retired after

nearly 60 years.

In Virginia, Republican Barbara Comstock is replacing her onetime boss, Frank Wolf, whom she served as a top aide and chief counsel on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee before joining the Virginia House of Delegates.

Dingell and Comstock are friendly and have spoken about how they can collaborate and improve relations and policy making on Capitol Hill.

"People don't get to know each other, and that relationship-building and that sense of trust and knowing each other is part of what's missing," said Dingell, who wrote a master's thesis on civility in Congress. "And we've got to find ways for people to get to know each other and talk."

Comstock said she, Dingell and other female lawmakers have met together and hope to forge coalitions. □

Republicans back House member in supremacist flap

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican lawmakers closed ranks Sunday behind the No. 3 House Republican leader as the party aimed to move past the controversy over his speech 12 years ago to a white supremacist group.

House Majority Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana has said the speech was a mistake he now regrets, and party leaders, including House Speaker

John Boehner, have backed him.

Several incoming rank-and-file lawmakers added their support Sunday, including Utah's Mia Love, the first black female Republican elected to the House of Representatives.

Love told ABC's "This Week" that Scalise has the support of his colleagues.

"I believe he should remain in leadership," Love said. "There's one quality that he

has that I think is very important in leadership, and that's humility. And he's actually shown that in this case. And he's apologized, and I think that we need to move on and get the work of the American people done."

The issue arose last week when a liberal Louisiana blogger uncovered Scalise's speech to a 2002 Louisiana convention of the European-American Unity and Rights Organization, which

called itself EURO. Former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke founded the group, which the Southern Poverty Law Center has classified as a hate group.

Scalise moved quickly to distance himself from the group, saying he opposes its views and that as a state legislator at the time, he didn't have much staffing and didn't always know details of the groups he was invited to address. □



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Republicans focus for Congress: Cut deficit, don't stumble

ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the first Republican-dominated Congress to confront President Barack Obama, party leaders will focus on bolstering the economy and cutting the budget — and avoiding self-inflicted calamities that make voters wonder if the party can govern competently.

When the new Congress raises the curtain Tuesday, Republicans will run both the House and Senate for the first time in eight years. Republican leaders want to showcase their legislative priorities, mixing accomplishments with showdowns with Obama but shunning government shutdowns and other chaotic standoffs.

Another priority is minimizing distractions like the recent admission by No. 3 House leader Steve Scalise that he addressed a white supremacist group in 2002 in his home state of Louisiana.

"Serious adults are in charge here and we intend to make progress," incoming Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told The Associated Press recently.

McConnell says the Senate's first bill would force construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, which Republicans call a job creator but Obama and many Democrats say threatens the environment.

The House leads off with legislation letting small companies sidestep some requirements of Obama's prized health care overhaul by hiring veterans, followed by other measures weakening that law and pushing the Keystone pipeline.

Other bills likely to be introduced early in the session would block Obama's executive actions on immigration and ease environmen-

tal and business regulations that Republicans contend stifles job growth. Additional bills would cut spending, squeeze the Medicare health care program for the elderly and other benefit programs, revamp tax laws, finance highway construc-

ate control in November's elections, adding nine seats for a 54-46 advantage that includes two Democratic-leaning independents. A 13-seat gain swelled their House majority to a commanding 246-188 with one vacancy, the result of New

to ensure that Scalise's 2002 speech, for which he has apologized, doesn't hurt their efforts to appeal to a more diverse electorate. Another complication: By autumn 2015, the developing presidential race could distract voters from congres-

possible without Democratic support, to override Obama vetoes that await bills threatening his health care law and his actions easing immigration rules.

McConnell says at an upcoming House-Senate Republican retreat, he will warn, "Don't get your expectations so high that you're inevitably going to be disappointed."

IMMIGRATION

Funding for the Department of Homeland Security, which enforces immigration laws, runs through late February. House Republicans plan to quickly vote to finance that agency through September but are still discussing how to use that bill to block Obama's executive actions deferring deportation for millions of immigrants in the United States illegally. That measure's Senate fate and Republican strategy for an Obama veto remain unclear.

Republicans rule out a sweeping immigration overhaul like the Senate-passed, bipartisan 2013 measure. They plan narrower bills that could attract Democrats, bolstering border security and easing immigration restrictions on highly skilled and farm workers.

HEALTH CARE

Republicans are eager to vote to repeal Obama's 2010 health care law, knowing that he would veto any repeal of his signature legislative achievement..

They're preparing measures repealing a tax on medical devices and ending the requirement that people buy medical coverage. They would also exempt companies from providing coverage to employees who work under 40 hours weekly, up from the current 30 hours. □



Incoming Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. is interviewed on Capitol Hill in Washington. The first Republican-controlled Congress to confront President Barack Obama takes charge on Tuesday, and GOP leaders are planning an agenda that focuses on cutting the budget and bolstering the economy _ and oh yes, avoiding self-inflicted calamities that make voters wonder if the party is capable of governing.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

tion and speed congressional approval of trade treaties.

"We're focused on job creation," said House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, and running "a more efficient, effective, accountable government."

Democrats say the Republicans' goal is cutting taxes on the rich while crippling Obama's accomplishments, including expanded health care coverage and restrictions on financial institutions. "In the minority, your role is to play defense and stop the worst from happening," said Sen. Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Senate Democrat.

Republicans captured Sen-

York Republican Michael Grimm's planned resignation following his guilty plea on a tax evasion charge. With McConnell and House Speaker John Boehner jointly mapping an agenda and scheduling long congressional work periods, goals and potential pitfalls include:

THE CALENDAR

Republican leaders still face ultraconservative tea party lawmakers. Their recalcitrance helped produce stalemates with Obama that excited conservative Republican voters but appalled others, causing Republican approval to plummet. Top Republicans want

sional Republicans' messaging.

"We want things arriving at the president's desk, and a lot of those things happening sooner rather than later," said Rep. Tom Cole. "It's not helpful to us if we drag into spring or summer and the stories are, 'It's a do-nothing Congress' or a confrontation."

ENOUGH GOP?

McConnell will often need at least six Democrats for the 60 Senate votes required to overcome filibusters, procedural maneuvers aimed at scuttling bills. Republicans will need two-thirds majorities in each chamber, im-

In search of a Boston jury to try marathon suspect

DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Nearly two years after the deadly Boston Marathon bombings, jury selection begins Monday in the trial of the surviving suspect in the attack that killed three people and injured more than 260. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev faces the possibility of the death penalty if convicted in the trial in U.S. District Court in Boston.

Prosecutors say their evidence includes a hand-scrawled confession scribbled inside a boat during an intensive manhunt and a video they say shows him placing a backpack with a bomb a few feet from a little boy who died when it exploded seconds later. Tsarnaev's lawyers have not revealed their defense strategy. In court filings, they've focused on evidence they hope will persuade a jury to spare his life. His defenders bank on the story of a difficult childhood in a former Soviet republic and his radicalization at the hands of an influential older brother who could have pressured him into participating in the deadly attack.

Jurors chosen from a pool of about 1,200 will decide whether Tsarnaev planned and carried out the twin bombings near the finish line of the race on April 15, 2013. If they find him guilty, they will decide whether he should be put to death. It's perhaps the most closely watched federal death penalty case since Timothy McVeigh was convicted and executed for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. Tsarnaev's lawyers tried in vain for months to get the trial moved, arguing the Boston jury pool was tainted because of the number of locals with connections to the race, drawing parallels to the McVeigh case, which was moved to Denver for similar reasons. But U.S. District Judge George O'Toole Jr. has been unmoved.

Jury selection alone is expected to take several weeks because of extensive media coverage and

the thousands of runners, spectators and others in the area personally affected by the bombings. The process also could be slowed if potential jurors express objections to the death penalty.

Some legal observers say Tsarnaev's lawyers — facing powerful evidence against him — will probably focus their energies on the penalty phase, when they could present mitigating evidence to spare his life. He has a strong team behind him. Attorney Judy Clarke touts a strong record of helping her high-profile clients avoid the death penalty, including Ted Kaczynski, the Unabomber; Olympic Park bomber Eric Rudolph; and Jared Loughner, who killed six people and wounded former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Tsarnaev's lawyers are likely to narrow in on motive and any pressure exerted on him, said Dan Collins, a former assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago who has investigated U.S. ties to terrorism.

"I think his mitigation will be in part paying close attention to what his explanation is and what circumstances beyond his control ... caused him to do this," Collins said.

Prosecutors say 21-year-old Dzhokhar and his brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev — ethnic Chechens who had lived in the United States for about a decade — carried out the bombings as retaliation for U.S. actions in Muslim countries. They are also accused of killing Massachusetts Institute of Technology police officer Sean Collier. Tamerlan, 26, died after a firefight with police several days after the bombings.

Dzhokhar was captured later that day, wounded and bloodied, hiding inside a boat stored in a suburban yard. Prosecutors said he described a motive in a note written in the boat: "The U.S. Government is killing our innocent civilians" and "We Muslims are one body, you hurt one you hurt us all."

Tsarnaev's lawyers may lay



This file photo provided Friday, April 19, 2013 by the FBI shows Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. Jury selection for Tsarnaev's trial is scheduled to begin on Monday, Jan. 5, 2015, in federal court in Boston.

(AP Photo/FBI)

the groundwork for some kind of mental health explanation, said Christopher Dearborn, a professor at Suffolk University Law School. □

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Migrant flow into US from Caribbean spikes

JENNIFER KAY
Associated Press
MIAMI (AP) —

A recent

by taking to the sea. These trips are extremely dangerous. Individuals located

unknown how many made it to U.S. shores without getting caught, or how many

migration because it gives a glimmer of hope," even to people not eligible un-

to use their vessels for extra money to sophisticated networks that may add drug shipments to their human cargo, said Carmen Pino, an official with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Miami. Smugglers also lure people, especially in relatively new routes that send Haitians into the neighboring Dominican Republic to board boats bound for Puerto Rico.

U.S. authorities deported George Lewis following a four-year sentence for a felony drug conviction in May 2013 to the Bahamas, where he was born but lived only briefly. His Haitian mother brought him to Miami as an infant, and though he always considered the U.S. home, he never became a legal resident.

Just five months after he was deported, he got on a Bahamian smuggler's boat with about a dozen Haitians and Jamaicans trying to sneak into Florida. Lewis said he easily talked his way onto the boat. He just struck up a conversation with some locals at a sports bar in Bimini, a small cluster of Bahamian islands 57 miles (92 kilometers) off Miami.

"It was like getting a number from a girl. I just needed the right line," Lewis said in an interview in November. The failed trip cost \$4,000. The boat capsized and four Haitian women drowned. He and the others were rescued.

After his rescue, U.S. authorities initially accused Lewis of being a smuggler, partly because he was the only person on board with a phone, which he used to call the emergency dispatcher when the boat started taking on water. □



A group of migrants stand on their overturned boat off the coast of Port St. Lucie, Fla. The migrants were from Haiti, India and the Bahamas. The USCG retrieved three deceased women from the vessel. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, the flow of migrants through the Caribbean Sea, the Atlantic Ocean and the Florida Straits in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 included 5,585 Haitians and 3,940 Cubans, along with hundreds of people from the Dominican Republic and other countries in the Caribbean and elsewhere.

(AP Photo/United States Coast Guard)

spike in Cubans attempting to reach the United States by sea has generated headlines. But the numbers of Haitians and other Caribbean islanders making similar journeys are up even more. And while federal law grants legal residency to Cubans reaching U.S. soil, anyone else can be detained and deported. That law, the so-called wet foot-dry foot policy, and Coast Guard operations related to migrants remain unchanged even as Cuban and U.S. leaders say they are restoring diplomatic relations after more than 50 years. "The Coast Guard strongly discourages attempts to illegally enter the country

at sea may be returned to Cuba," said Lt. Cmdr. Gabe Somma, spokesman for the Coast Guard's 7th District in Miami. According to the Coast Guard, in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, U.S. authorities captured, intercepted or chased away at least 5,585 Haitians, 3,940 Cubans and hundreds from the Dominican Republic and other Caribbean countries attempting to sneak into the country. That's at least 3,000 more migrants intercepted than in the previous fiscal year. It's also the highest number of Haitian migrants documented in five years and the highest number of Cubans recorded in six. It's

died trying. More than 1,920 migrants — most of them Cuban or Haitian — have been intercepted so far in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. The Coast Guard worries that number will only increase as news spreads about recent changes to the U.S. immigration system, including fast-tracking visas for some Haitians already approved to join family here and an executive order signed by President Barack Obama that would make millions already illegally in the U.S. eligible for work permits and protection from deportation. "Any perceived changes to U.S. immigration policy can cause a spike in im-

der those changes, said Capt. Mark Fedor, chief of response for the Coast Guard's 7th District. It's unclear why the numbers are jumping. Poverty and political repression have long caused Caribbean islanders to attempt the journey, and the outlook remains dismal for many. Coast Guard and U.S. immigration officials think another calm summer without many tropical storms and a recovering U.S. economy might have encouraged more to take to the sea. They also say the increased captures may reflect better law enforcement. Smuggling operations in the region range from individual opportunists looking



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North Korea blasts US for sanctions over Sony attack

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— North Korea on Sunday criticized the United States for slapping sanctions on Pyongyang officials and organizations for a cyber-attack on Sony Pictures — the latest fallout from a Hollywood movie depicting the fictional assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

An unnamed spokesman for North Korea's Foreign Ministry, in rhetoric that closely mirrors past statements, denied any role in the breach of tens of thousands of confidential Sony emails and business files and accused the United States of "groundlessly" stirring up hostility toward Pyongyang. The spokesman said the new sanctions would not weaken the country's 1.2-million-strong military.

The spokesman told the North's official media mouthpiece, the Korean Central News Agency, that the sanctions show America's "inveterate repugnancy and hostility toward the DPRK," referring to the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"The policy persistently pursued by the U.S. to stifle the DPRK, groundlessly stirring up bad blood toward it, would only harden its will and resolution to defend the sovereignty of the country," the spokesman said.

The United States on Friday sanctioned 10 North Korean government officials and three organizations, including Pyongyang's primary intelligence agency and state-run arms dealer, in what the White House described as an opening move in the response toward the Sony cyberattack.

The sanctions might have

only a limited effect, as North Korea already is under tough U.S. and international sanctions over its nuclear and missile programs.

American officials portrayed the sanctions as a swift, decisive response to North Korean behavior that they said had gone far

tent of North Korea's involvement. Many experts have said it's possible that hackers or even Sony insiders could be the culprits,

good first step" but didn't go far enough.

Menendez told CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday that he had written to Secretary of State John Kerry, urging him to consider putting North Korea back on the list of state sponsors of terrorism, "which would have far more pervasive consequences." The 10 North Koreans singled out for sanctions didn't necessarily have anything to do with the attack on Sony, senior U.S. officials said. Anyone who works for or helps North Korea's government is now fair game, especially North Korea's defense sector and spying operations, they said.

North Korea has expressed fury over "The Interview," an anti-Pyongyang Sony comedy starring Seth Rogen and James Franco. It has denied hacking Sony, but called the act a "righteous deed."

Sony initially decided to call off the film's release after movie theaters decided not to show the film. After Obama criticized that decision, Sony released the movie in limited theaters and online. □



A magazine with cartoons of U.S. President Barack Obama, left, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is displayed at a book store in Seoul, South Korea. North Korea on Sunday criticized the U.S. for slapping sanctions on Pyongyang officials and organizations for a cyberattack on Sony Pictures - the latest fallout from a Hollywood movie depicting the fictional assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The red letters on the magazine read "Hacker War."

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

President Barack Obama also warned Pyongyang that the United States was considering whether to put North Korea back on its list of state sponsors of terrorism, which could jeopardize aid to the country on a global scale.

over the line. Never before has the U.S. imposed sanctions on another nation in direct retaliation for a cyberattack on an American company.

There have been doubts in the cyber community, however, about the ex-

and questioned how the FBI can point the finger so conclusively.

Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey, the outgoing chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the sanctions announced Friday were "a

Australian PM makes unannounced trip to Iraq

SAMEER N. YACCOUB
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott made an unannounced visit Sunday to Baghdad, meeting with top officials to discuss ways his country can aid Iraqi forces in their fight against the Islamic State group.

Abbott and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi discussed military cooperation between the two countries, including the training and equipping of

Iraqi soldiers, state television reported. The Iraqi army collapsed last summer in the face of a blitz by extremists from the Islamic State group, which now holds about a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria in its self-declared caliphate. During a joint news conference, Abbott said that his country is determined to provide all kinds of support to Iraq in its war against terrorism. He vowed to enhance cooperation between the two countries.

Australian fighter jets are bombing Islamic State group targets in northern Iraq as part of a U.S.-led coalition and 200 Australian special forces troops soon will enter Iraq to advise and assist local security forces. Meanwhile Sunday, police said mortar shells slammed into several houses in the Shiite village of Sabaa al-Bour, about 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of Baghdad, killing four people and wounding seven. Elsewhere, police said a bomb blast on

a commercial street killed two people and wounded six in western Baghdad.

Sunday night, two bombs exploded in downtown Baghdad, killing three people and wounding 10, police said. A sticky bomb attached to a mini-bus also exploded, killing two passengers and wounding three, police said.

Medical officials confirmed the casualties. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to journalists. □

Iran's president: Nuclear talks a matter of heart

AMIR VAHDAT

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Sunday that ongoing nuclear negotiations with world powers are a matter of "heart," not just centrifuges ahead of talks next week in Geneva.

Speaking to an economic conference in Tehran, Rouhani both countered hard-line critics worried Iran will give up too much while also attempting to signal his administration remains open to negotiation with the six-nation group leading the talks. If "we are ready to stop some types of enrichment which we do not need at this time, does it mean we have compromised our principles and cause?" Rouhani asked. He responded: "Our cause is not linked to a centrifuge. It is connected to our heart and to our willpower."

On Jan. 15, Iranian negotiators will meet in Geneva with officials from the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany, hoping to hammer details out of a final deal. Iran reached an interim, one-



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani briefs the media in Tehran, Iran. Rouhani said Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, that ongoing nuclear negotiations with world powers are a matter of "heart," not just centrifuges ahead of talks next week in Geneva. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

year deal with world powers in November 2013 to freeze its nuclear program in exchange for the easing of some sanctions. Negotiators later agreed to

extend talks until June 30, with hopes of reaching a rough deal in March.

The West fears Iran's nuclear program could allow it to build nuclear weapons. Iran says its nuclear program is only for peaceful purposes, like power generation and medical research. The main conflict is over uranium enrichment, which can create both reactor fuel and the fissile core of nuclear arms. In seeking to reduce Iran's bomb-making ability, the U.S. has proposed that Tehran export much of its stockpile of enriched uranium — something the Islamic Republic has long said it would not do. Two other unresolved issues are Iran's Fordo underground enrichment site and the nearly built Arak nuclear reactor. □

Israel threatens more punitive steps against Palestinians

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli leaders on Sunday threatened to take tougher action against the Palestinians over their decision to join the International

Criminal Court, a day after freezing the transfer of more than \$100 million in tax funds.

Last week's Palestinian decision to seek membership in the international court has infuriated Israel. The Palestinians have said they intend on using their new membership in the Hague-based tribunal to press war crimes cases against Israel. "The Palestinian Authority has chosen confrontation with Israel and we will not sit idly by," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his Cabinet. He said Israel would not allow its soldiers to be "hailed" before the court.

In an initial response over the weekend, Israel said it had frozen tax funds collected for the Palestinians. The monthly transfers are a key source of revenue for the cash-strapped Palestinian government. Netanyahu's government minister for strategic affairs, Yuval Steinitz, said Israel could take even tougher action.

"If the Palestinian Authority continues to attack us, I assume we will consider other steps," he said, without elaborating.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends a weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015. (AP Photo/Oded Balilty, Pool)

The Palestinians sought membership in the international tribunal after the U.N. Security Council voted down a resolution setting a three-year deadline for the establishment of a Palestinian state on lands occupied by Israel. On Sunday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said officials were considering going back to the council.

"We might go again and again and again," he said. "We will never get bored until we gain the recognition — and in the end they will recognize us."

Also Sunday, Israel's Shin Bet security service said it arrested a Palestinian mili-

tant cell that drew inspiration from the Islamic State extremist group. It said the cell was based in the West Bank city of Hebron and plotted shooting and bombing attacks. The cell had no formal ties to Islamic State.

Meanwhile, Israel's Supreme Court rejected an Israeli military plan to extend its West Bank separation barrier through a Palestinian village near Jerusalem. Residents in Battir had argued the structure would destroy ancient farming terraces. In June, the United Nations cultural agency UNESCO designated Battir a World Heritage site. □

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Pope picks 15 new cardinals reflecting diversity



Pope Francis speaks during the Angelus noon prayer from his studio window overlooking St. Peter's square at the Vatican, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015. Pope Francis named 15 new cardinals Sunday, selecting them from 14 nations, including far-flung corners of the world such as Tonga, New Zealand, Cape Verde and Myanmar, to reflect the diversity of the church and its growth in places like Asia and Africa.

FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis named 15 new cardinals Sunday, selecting them from 14 nations including far-flung corners of the world such as Tonga, New Zealand, Cape Verde

and Myanmar to reflect the diversity of the church and its growth in places like Asia and Africa compared to affluent regions. Other cardinals hail from Ethiopia, Thailand and Vietnam. None came from the Unit-

(AP Photo/Riccardo De Luca)
ed States and only three European nations received new cardinals — Portugal and Spain in addition to Italy. Cape Verde, Tonga and Myanmar gained cardinals for the first time. Francis told faithful in St. Peter's Square that the

new batch of cardinals "shows the inseparable tie with the church of Rome to churches in the world."

Five new cardinals come from Europe, three from Asia, three from Latin America, including Mexico, and two each come from Africa and Oceania. With his picks, the Argentine-born Francis, the first pontiff from Latin America, made ever clearer that he is laying out a new vision of the church's identity, including of its hierarchy. He looked beyond traditional metropolitan area for the "princes of the church" who will help advise him as goes forward with church reforms. Cardinals also elect his successor.

He has said repeatedly that the church must reach out to those on the margins. The Vatican's chief spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said the selection "confirms that the pope doesn't feel tied to the traditional 'cardinal sees,' which reflected historic reasons in various countries."

"Instead we have various

nominations of archbishops or bishops of sees in the past that wouldn't have had a cardinal," Lombardi said.

The pontiff ignored another tradition: limiting to 120 the number of cardinals under 80 and eligible to vote for his successor.

Counting the new cardinals, 125 cardinals will eligible to vote, although Lombardi noted, "he kept very close to it (120), so it was substantially respected." The two nations with the biggest number of eligible electors are Italy, with 26, and the United States with 11.

Notable among Pope Francis' picks are churchmen whose advocacy styles seem to particularly capture matters dear to his heart. Monsignor Francesco Montenegro, a Sicilian, was at his side when Francis made his first trip a few months into his papacy. Montenegro welcomed the pontiff to Lampedusa, a tiny Sicilian island whose people have helped thousands of migrants stranded by smugglers. □

Pakistan strikes kill 31 militants, drone kills 7

RIAZ KHAN, Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistani airstrikes killed 31 militants and a suspected U.S. drone strike killed another seven, officials said Sunday, as local troops pressed an ongoing offensive in the country's tribal regions along the Afghan border that have been longtime insurgent havens. The airstrikes late Saturday in the Tirrah valley of the Khyber region destroyed

four militant hideouts and a suicide bomber training center, said an army statement. The military said several would-be suicide bombers were among the dead, without providing further details.

The military says the operation in Khyber is aimed at militants who have fled a massive offensive in neighboring North Waziristan that was launched on June 15, 2014. The army says that offensive has resulted in the killing of 1,200 militants. □

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Cuba:

Santeria priests welcome closer ties with US

HAVANA (AP) — A group of Afro-Cuban Santeria priests said this weekend the path is clear for improved dialogue between the U.S. and Cuba following the two governments' announcement of plans to renew diplomatic ties. The "babalawo" priests' annual "Letter of the Year" also foresaw dangers of epidemics, conflicts, environmental imbalances and the loss of religious or political leaders — general projections that have been common in past such Letters.

Lazaro Cuesta, one of the founders of the Commission of the Letter of the Year, said the planned restoration of ties, announced on Dec. 17, with the U.S. opens a period "of hope for all the world."

"Our Cuban brothers who are there (in the United States) will avoid being victims of the walls that separated us until yesterday," he said. "Those walls collapsed to create a bridge. The commission represents about 1,000 babalawos



Afro-Cuban Santeria priest Lazaro Cuesta reads predictions for 2015 in Havana, Cuba. Cuesta, one of the founders of the Commission of the Letter of the Year, said the planned restoration of ties, announced on Dec. 17, with the U.S. opens a period "of hope for all the world." The annual Letter is released each year around New Year's Day.

(AP Photo/Desmond Boylan)

and is independent of the government. Another Santeria group, the government-recognized Yoruba Association issued its yearly

message on Thursday. It did not mention ties with the U.S. and urged people to "avoid social indiscipline." Santeria is a mix of Roman

Catholicism and the African Yoruba tradition. The annual Letter is released each year around New Year's Day. □

Mexico:

Vigilante founder, 26 others held for deadly clash

GUSTAVO RUIZ
Associated Press

MORELIA, Mexico (AP) — A

judge in the western state of Michoacan has begun homicide proceedings

against the founder of a vigilante group and 26 of his followers who were in-

involved in a deadly clash with a rival force in December. Hipolito Mora founded a vigilante force to fight drug traffickers in Michoacan which later become part of an official rural police force that received guns, uniforms and pay from the government. On Dec. 16, Mora's group had a shootout with a rival rural police force led by Luis Antonio Torres, better known as "Simon the American," that left 11 people dead in the remote mountain town of La Ruana, Michoacan. After the shootout, authorities said Mexican military and federal police would assume security responsibilities in several municipalities, replacing the rural police. In late December, both Mora and Torres, along with 35 of their followers, turned themselves in to authorities. □



The leader of a local self-defense group, Hipolito Mora, right, stands armed at the entrance of the town of La Ruana, a day after a clash between two rival "self-defense" groups outside of the town, in the state of Guerrero, Mexico. A judge in the western state of Michoacan has begun homicide proceedings against Mora and 26 of his followers who were involved in a deadly clash with a rival force in December.

(AP Photo/Gustavo Aguado)

Around The CARIBBEAN

Cayman police: boat with Cubans capsizes, 1 dead

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP) —

Cayman authorities say a small boat with four Cuban migrants aboard has capsized off the coast of the British Caribbean territory and one man has died. The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service said Sunday that local boaters rescued three migrants when their boat overturned off Sand Quay Island. The fourth migrant was found floating and could not be revived. Police say the Cubans were trying to get to Honduras when they encountered rough seas. They sought safe harbor by the Cayman Islands, but a wave capsized their boat. The Cayman Islands and Cuba have an agreement under which Cuban migrants who set foot on the territory's shores are detained and sent home. But the territory usually allows those who do not come ashore to continue their journey.

Jamaica cops: 4 Europeans held over smuggling

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) —

Jamaican police have charged a Swiss citizen and three British nationals with attempting to smuggle cocaine on flights in recent days. The Jamaica Constabulary Force alleges 28-year-old Katerina Ana Schofield of Zurich attempted to smuggle 2 pounds (1 kilogram) of cocaine on a flight to Frankfurt, Germany last week. She was arrested at Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay. At the same airport, 29-year-old Ferron Ford of Birmingham, England, was charged with attempting to smuggle about 3 pounds (1 ½ kilograms) of cocaine as he tried to board a U.K. flight. Two other British men whose identities were not disclosed have been arrested at the airport in Kingston as they were trying to get to London. □



Hundreds Of Revelers Plunge Into 2015 At Moomba Beach!



last Thursday morning, celebrating the beginning of the New Year 2015 at MooMba Beach. Hundreds of locals and tourists alike ran like the wind at the signal of DJ Rico Rijk of radio Fresh FM, the station that accompanied the event with great music. Spectators watched as the red-hatted crowd took a gleeful dip before



PALM BEACH - Hundreds of happy people jumped into the ocean at noon



running to the pea soup stand, where countless cups of Dutch pea soup and Unox sausage were doled out. Hundreds of red Unox hats and several gallons of pea soup were distributed, according to officials from the Aruba Wine And Dine group. The jump into the ocean, the Nieuwjaarsduik in

Dutch, is a tradition that started in 1965. Now more than 46,000 people take a dip worldwide; 10,000 of them in Scheveningen, Holland. Water temperatures greatly vary per location, as you might imagine. In Holland the temperature was very reasonable 8 degrees – but what a difference with Aruba! ☐



McLaughlin Family Honored for Loyalty to Aruba!



PALM BEACH - Recently, Jim and Noreen McLaughlin were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill after



returning to Aruba for more than 21 years consecutive years. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more years consecutive. Mr. Ricardo Croes

representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Playa Linda Resort. Noreen commented that she will never change her vacation island for any other island, saying their top reasons for returning are they consider Aruba to

be the "Happy Island", the great weather and friendly Aruban hospitality, the white sand beaches and the local food. On the pictures Mr. Croes from ATA is seen together with Jim and Noreen, as well as Yvette from the Playa Linda Resort. □

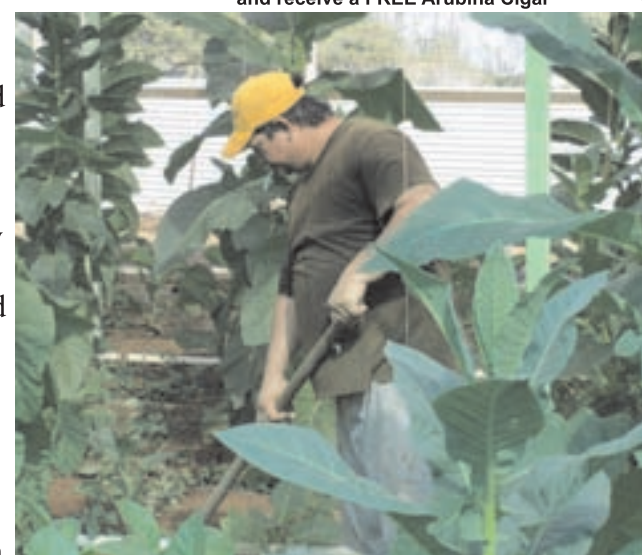
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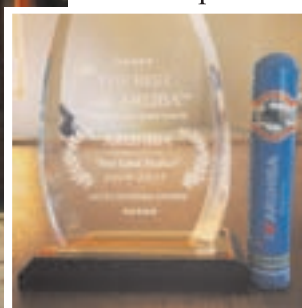


ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also



Owner Benjamin Petrocchi

available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled. Winner of the best of Aruba. The best local product. Cigars in Tubes Aruban design.



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Blue Lobster Restaurant Welcomes Delicious New Dishes!



PALM BEACH - Be part of the innovative and futuristic, simple but outstanding food journey, The Blue Lobster Restaurant is starting just this week-new dishes are making a debut. Fresh fish and fruits of the sea, brought in daily by the local fishermen, will start a parade of succulent and delicious dishes, offering you new ways to indulge yourself in a fantastic and memorable diner with your loved ones.

We are proud to be part of the culinary feast available on this paradise island, and cannot go on this trip without giving our clients a fair chance to sample and enjoy a good local dish made with love and care, conserving our native roots and wonderful seasoning in classic dishes like: Keshi Jena, Steak Di Weja, Balchi Pisca, Keri-Keri, and real Aruban Sopi Pisca (fresh fish soup as starter)- you will love all this.

"Our regular menu will have a special section for this fantastic selection of local dishes and we are proud to bring this part into our regular menu," says Mr. Castano.

If pasta is your thing, we are your place for that too. Italian favorites will also come into the picture at The Blue Lobster Restaurant. Come in and give us your expert opinion. We guarantee you

will not be disappointed. Meat anyone? Of course Angus beef is our preferred grade. Try our 12oz sirloin steaks made to perfection, or perhaps a nice 10oz rib eye steak, or what about a butterfly juicy tasty fillet mignon, all flam broiled on the open fire. You will not resist this temptation. This actual remark was posted at TripAdvisor by one of our patrons....

"Do not go by the looks of the entrance... you are not buying the building... you are there to get your money worth and to enjoy one of the best dinners ever, while in Aruba."

"Believe what others are saying and see for yourself. Go to TripAdvisor and see how 98% of our clients are stating their satisfaction and happiness for having chosen The Blue Lobster Restaurant. We are not perfect, and perhaps cannot please everyone, but being near to perfect and keep striving to reach perfection... I think that will do," says Mr. Castano, owner of this little cozy place in Palm Beach. Having Good Food, Good Service And Good Prices, is something The Blue Lobster Restaurant will always care about, so in this way everyone has a great opportunity to enjoy a wonderful meal and a fantastic time at this charming establish-



ment. Clients are coming from far parts of the world, even from Moscow. With the name of this little restaurant in the list of "Must Visit" places when in Aruba. TripAdvisor is getting more and more reviews on the positive side every day with some exceptions which pushes management to work even harder to be able to please all cli-

ents visiting the restaurant. The Blue Lobster Restaurant is for believers, adventures, sophisticated and determined clients who will go for their own opinion and let nothing detour them from having a nice time and a fantastic dinner. The Blue Lobster Restaurant is not the only great seafood place of the island but it is one of the best, as it ap-

pears in the "10-BEST" web site. Not going there while on Aruba, is like not being in Aruba.

So if you are craving perfectly prepared lobster, fresh fish, pasta, vegetarian, local delicacies or meat.... The Blue Lobster Restaurant must be your first choice.

The restaurant has received the Certificate of Excellence award for the years 2014 and 2015, this is the third consecutive year that TripAdvisor recognized the high quality of the food and service that clients receive at The Blue Lobster Restaurant. This was obviously based on the positive comments and positive reviews posted by patrons of the restaurant in this prestigious travelers web-site, with over 200 million affiliates. □

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Marc Hernandez likes to go wild when it comes to his cooking. Caught in the morning, served at night is the true Bugaloe way, maybe this explains its popularity from the start. Crazy Fish Monday is served from 5.30 p.m. till 10 p.m. Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is open daily from 9 a.m. till midnight. Start your day of



right with a delicious cappuccino, or walk in to enjoy a casual lunch in between sunbathing. A few nights a week Bugaloe is host to some of the best live bands of Aruba, while you are savoring dinner and enjoying the beau-

tiful Aruba Sunset! Don't forget to make one hour in the day even happier at Bugaloe's daily Happy Hour from 5 till 6 p.m. Reservations are not necessary, just follow your hips to the music and the fun and smiles saluting you! ☐



Mikaela Shiffrin of the United States, the winner, celebrates on podium after an alpine ski, women's World Cup slalom in Sljeme, Zagreb, Croatia, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015.

Associated Press

U.S. skier Mikaela Shiffrin dominates field to win World Cup slalom

ERIC WILLEMSSEN
Associated Press

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) — American skier Mikaela Shiffrin continued her recent resurgence in slalom by convincingly winning her second straight World Cup race, leaving her rivals in awe four weeks before she defends her world title in Beaver Creek.

In sunny conditions and cheered by 8,000 spectators, the Olympic champion posted the fastest time in both runs to finish in an aggregate 1 minute, 56.66 seconds and lead second-place Kathrin Zettel of Austria by 1.68 seconds, the biggest winning margin in the 10-year history of the event.

"For the first time in my career, I just feel like I am in complete control of myself," said Shiffrin, who sorted out some equipment issues by changing her boots and skis and tweaked her mindset during a 10-day training camp in Italy in December.

Continued on Page 18



LION TAMER

Controversial call helps Cowboys down Detroit

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo (9) celebrates a touchdown against the Detroit Lions as tackle Tyron Smith (77) helps him up during the second half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.
Associated Press
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Ellis scores 20 points, Mavs beat Cavs 109-90

CLEVELAND (AP) -- While the wins keep piling up for the Dallas Mavericks, all the Cavaliers keep adding are injuries.

Monta Ellis scored 20 points, Dirk Nowitzki added 15 and the Mavericks won their fifth straight game Sunday, a 109-90 victory over the Cavaliers, whose news on the injury front gets worse by the day.

Cleveland again played without LeBron James, who is out with knee and back soreness. Kyrie Irving left in the third quarter with lower back tightness and won't make the trip to Philadelphia for Monday night's game.

"I'm in a lot of pain right now," said Irving, who missed two games last week with a sore left knee. "I just have to get through it. It stinks because you have two injuries at one time."

Irving, who scored a season-low six points and was 2 of 9 from the field, said the injuries aren't related.

As his team raised its record to 25-10, Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle recognized the Cavaliers are far from full strength.

"This is the kind of team we've got to beat," he said. "They're without the best player in the world and lost one of the best point guards in the league. They were already down bodies when Kyrie went out, but I really did think it was a harder game

than the score indicated."

James missed his fourth game in a row and fifth of the season. The Cavaliers are 1-4 when the four-time MVP doesn't play and have dropped 5 of 7 overall.

Nowitzki has 27,397 career points and is 12 shy of tying Moses Malone for seventh place all-time.

Kevin Love scored a season-high 30 points, but the Cavaliers couldn't stay with the Mavericks, who had six players in double figures.

Before the game, Cavaliers general manager David Griffin said speculation about coach David Blatt's job status was "ridiculous" and added no change would be made.

The Mavericks, who wrap up this three-game trip Monday in Brooklyn, are 10-0 on the road against the Eastern Conference this season and have won 14 straight overall against the East. Dallas went ahead for good late in the first quarter and built a 57-42 lead two minutes before half-time. The margin grew to 20 in the third.

Chandler Parsons, Tyson Chandler and J.J. Barea scored 14 points apiece for Dallas, which shot 56 percent and made 12 of 26 3-pointers.

Rajon Rondo, who scored a season-high 29 points Friday against Boston, was held to four points and had eight assists in 27 min-



utes. Dallas is 6-2 since acquiring Rondo from the Celtics.

"We get out and run, so I love it," Ellis said. "He's a great floor general at both ends of the court.

We're doing good, but we can do better. We made the extra pass today, and when we move the basketball like that, we can put teams in a bind."

Shiffrin

Continued from Page 17

"I feel really comfortable on my feet right now after a lot of testing in Santa Caterina but also really great training," the American said. "I have started off really great with my career but I am hoping to keep improving ... I feel like I am in a really great place right now."

Nina Loeseth of Norway was 2.79 back in third for her maiden career podium finish and first for a Norwegian female skier since 2002, while the rest of the field trailed Shiffrin by more than three seconds.

Shiffrin won the slalom World Cup the past two seasons but failed to reach a podium in the first three races this season until dominating in Kuehtai, Austria,

last week, where she also won both runs.

"With every single run that I take I get more confident," the American skier said. "My skiing is good right now, it's kind of back on track and my equipment feels really good."

It was the American's 12th career World Cup win and 11th in slalom, matching a World Cup record set in 1980 by France's Perrine Pelen for most slalom wins as a teenager.

"It's a crazy feeling to be the last racer on the hill in the second run and to be like, 'OK, it's on me now,'" said Shiffrin, who also won the Snow Queen Trophy two years ago. "There is some pressure there but it's nice when I deal with it and still ski well. That's one of the best feelings in the world."

Shiffrin didn't try to merely defend her 0.80-second



Mikaela Shiffrin of the United States competes on her way to clock the fastest time during the first run of an alpine ski, women's World Cup slalom in Sljeme, Zagreb, Croatia, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015.

lead over Zettel from the opening run but went out attacking in her second as well.

"Mikaela was amazing, so super strong," said Zettel, adding she was "really happy" with coming runner-up to the American. "Mikaela is from a different planet. It looks like noth-

ing can go wrong, it looks so smooth and easy and she's obviously having a lot of fun."

Frida Hansdotter of Sweden placed fourth to retain her lead in the discipline standings with 320 points, though Shiffrin has closed the gap to a single point. Tina Maze is 25 points be-

hind Shiffrin in third, and the Slovenian skier stayed atop the overall standings after placing fifth in Sunday's slalom.

Sarka Strachova, who was third after the opening run, straddled a gate and failed to finish, while Sweden's Maria Pietilae-Holmner and Austria's Nicole Hosp, who both won slaloms this season, also skied out. Sara Hector of Sweden, who won a GS for her maiden victory last week, started in 61st position but placed ninth for her first top-10 finish in slalom.

There is one more slalom before the world championships — in Flachau, Austria, on Jan. 13.

A men's night slalom on the same course is scheduled for Tuesday, while the women's World Cup continues with speed races in Bad Kleinkirchheim, Austria, next weekend.



Indianapolis Colts' Donte Moncrief (10) and Hakeem Nicks (14) celebrate after Moncrief made a 36-yard touchdown reception during the second half of an NFL wildcard playoff football game against the Cincinnati Bengals Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer
INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Andrew Luck stood tall, even as he was falling down Sunday. The Colts quarterback threw for 376 yards and a game-changing touchdown as he was headed to the turf. Daniel "Boom"

Herron ran for another score as Indianapolis dominated the second half to beat Cincinnati 26-10 in the wild-card round. As the Colts (12-5) were setting up a rematch at Denver (12-4) next Sunday, the Bengals frittered away a chance to end

Colts pull away from Bengals for 26-10 victory

their postseason misery. The Bengals became the first team in NFL history to lose four consecutive opening-round games. Andy Dalton tied Warren Moon for the most consecutive opening-round playoff losses by a quarterback. Cincinnati coach Marvin Lewis tied Marty Schottenheimer, Jim Mora and Steven Owen for most consecutive playoff losses (six) by a coach. Lewis also tied Mora, the former Colts coach, for most consecutive playoff losses to start a career, and tied Owen for most consecutive playoff losses with one team. Now Luck will get a chance to defy his short NFL playoff history. Though he improved to 2-0 at home, the Colts' franchise quarterback has struggled mightily in consecutive playoff losses on the road. His third opportunity will come against his predecessor in Indy, Peyton Manning. Denver beat the Colts 31-24 in the season opener. Luck couldn't be going into the game under bet-

ter circumstances. He finished 31 of 44 and for the first time did not have a turnover in a playoff game. He also joined Dan Fouts, Jim Kelly, Warren Moon and Drew Brees as the only NFL players with three straight 300-yard games in the postseason. While it wasn't the clean game Colts coach Chuck Pagano envisioned — T.Y. Hilton dropped a couple of potentially game-changing passes; Herron lost a fumble; and the Colts were called for nine penalties — Luck and the offense did enough. The defense was even better, allowing just 254 yards against the Bengals (10-6-1), who played without injured receiver A.J. Green or tight end Jermaine Gresham, their two top pass catchers. The difference between Luck and Dalton was never more apparent than on two third-quarter plays. On second-and-10 from the Bengals 36, Luck floated a perfect pass to the corner of the end zone with Carlos Dunlap

taking him to the ground. Donte Moncrief cradled the ball to his chest for a 36-yard score and a 20-10 lead. When Dalton got the ball back, he had Brandon Tate open deep down the middle on a flea-flicker. But Colts cornerback Greg Toler raced over and broke up the underthrown pass. Three plays later, the Bengals punted. They never seriously challenged again. Dalton finished 18 of 35 for 155 yards and lost a fumble, while rookie Jeremy Hill rushed 13 times for 47 yards. Hilton caught six passes for 103 yards, Herron had 10 catches for 85 yards — he also rushed for 56 — and Adam Vinatieri made four field goals. Mike Nugent made a 57-yard field goal with 10 seconds left in the first half to cut Indy's lead to 13-10. It was the longest field goal in franchise history. But the Colts only gave up 9 net yards in the third quarter, when Luck seized control with his acrobatic TD pass. □

Romo, Cowboys rally past Lions 24-20 in wild card

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) -

Tony Romo has a stirring playoff comeback to go with all the late-season disappointments.

Romo threw two touchdown passes to Terrance Williams, the second for the lead late in the fourth quarter, and the Dallas Cowboys rallied for a 24-20 wild-card win over Detroit on Sunday in their first play-off game in five years.

The Cowboys (12-5) wiped out an early two-touchdown deficit to earn a trip to Green Bay, their first postseason visit there since a heartbreaking loss to the Packers in the Ice Bowl in 1967.

"You just have to stay in the moment and understand the game," Romo said. "It doesn't end after the first quarter, second quarter. You just have to keep calm. I've played enough games to understand that. Maybe I didn't do that as well when I was younger." The Lions (11-6) went 99 yards for one of two first-quarter touchdowns, but Matthew Stafford couldn't



Dallas Cowboys running back DeMarco Murray (29) celebrates a touchdown run during the second half of an NFL wildcard playoff football game against the Detroit Lions, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

get them in the end zone again. He fell to 0-2 in the playoffs three years after losing a wild-card game to New Orleans. Detroit was driving with a

20-17 lead midway through the fourth quarter when referee Pete Morelli announced a pass interference penalty against Anthony Hitchens on a third-

down pass to Brandon Pettigrew. But officials reversed the call without explanation, and Sam Martin had a 10-yard punt after the Lions tried to draw Dallas offside on fourth-and-1. Lions coach Jim Caldwell said he got an explanation, but didn't like it. "Not good enough," he said. Romo took the Cowboys 59 yards in 11 plays, including a 21-yard pass to Jason Witten on fourth-and-6. The winner to Williams was an 8-yarder after Romo had several seconds to throw behind an offensive line among the league's best because Dallas has drafted linemen in the first round three of the past four years. The Cowboys had to wait a little longer to celebrate after rookie DeMarcus Lawrence gave the Lions the ball back with a fumble following Anthony Spencer's sack that knocked the ball loose from Stafford. Lawrence redeemed himself on the clincher, sacking Stafford on fourth down near midfield in the final minute.

The Lions have not won a playoff game since the 1991 season, when they

beat Dallas.

Dallas rode quick starts to a 4-0 December that carried it to the NFC East title, but a sluggish first quarter put the Cowboys in a hole. Golden Tate bounced up from a flattening hit by C.J. Spillman on a punt return and beat Barry Church on a 51-yard pass to open the scoring. Church called out Tate on his radio show earlier in the week, saying the Cowboys were going to pay him back for a blindside block on linebacker Sean Lee that got Tate fined three years ago when he was with Seattle. The Lions went up 14-0 on a drive that amounted to 99 3/4 yards. After Dekoda Watson ran into Martin to keep the drive alive, the 14-play drive ended with Reggie Bush badly faking Orlando Scandrick on an 18-yard scoring run.

Williams (three catches for 92 yards) pulled the Cowboys within seven when he took a short pass from Romo 76 yards to the end zone.

NFL rushing leader DeMarco Murray slogged his way to 75 yards on 19 carries against the NFL's best run defense, including a 1-yard plunge on fourth down that pulled Dallas to 20-14 late in the third quarter.

Romo, who cost Dallas a chance to win with the infamous flub of the snap on a potential winning field in Seattle eight years ago, improved to 2-4 in the postseason. The 34-year-old who had back surgery in December 2013 and sustained another back injury that knocked him out of a game this season, endured a season-high six sacks.

Two were on consecutive plays in the fourth quarter by Ndamukong Suh, who was suspended Monday for stepping on Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers, but reinstated a day later. Romo had 293 yards passing yards and a quarterback rating almost right on his franchise-best 113.2 that led the NFL.

Stafford, playing his hometown team, was 28 of 42 for 323 yards. □

AP source: Raiders interview Jack Del Rio for head ccoach

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) - The Oakland Raiders interviewed Denver Broncos defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio for their head coaching vacancy on Saturday.

A person with knowledge of the interview said the Raiders met with Del Rio as they seek a full-time coach. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team is not releasing details on interviews. The interview was first reported by the Denver Post.

Del Rio, who grew up in the Bay Area, has been defensive coordinator in Denver for the past three seasons, helping the Broncos win three straight AFC West titles.

Del Rio previously was

head coach in Jacksonville for nine seasons. He had a 68-71 regular-season record and made the playoffs in 2005 and 2007, winning one playoff game in his second postseason trip. Del Rio was fired with five games remaining in the 2011 season.

He has extensive NFL experience, having played 12 seasons as a linebacker and coaching with New Orleans, Baltimore and Carolina before getting the head coaching job with the Jaguars.

The Raiders are seeking a full-time coach after firing Dennis Allen four games into last season. Interim coach Tony Sparano is also a candidate. Like Del Rio, Allen was hired in Oakland in 2012 after a stint as defensive coordinator in Den-

ver.

Oakland has had eight coaches since the start of the 2003 season. The Raiders have not had a winning record or playoff berth in that span as the constant turnover has contributed to the struggles on the field.

The Raiders have also interviewed Philadelphia offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur. Seattle coach Pete Carroll told SiriusXM NFL Radio earlier this week that Seahawks offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell also interviewed for the job.

Oakland is also reportedly interested in interviewing San Francisco assistant Eric Mangini, who has head coaching experience with Cleveland and the New York Jets, and Indianapolis offensive coordinator Pep Hamilton. □

Capitals earn 4-3 win over Panthers

By HARVEY VALENTINE

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin had a goal and an assist and the Washington Capitals earned a 4-3 win over the Florida Panthers on Sunday.

Brooks Laich and Karl Alzner added second-period goals for Washington, which has won 10 straight home games against the Panthers.

The Capitals improved to 10-1-3 in their past 14 games, and avoided a letdown after their 3-2 win against Chicago in the Winter Classic.

Braden Holtby made 29 saves for Washington.

Nick Bjugstad had a goal and an assist for Florida, which also got goals from Vincent Trocheck and Dylan Olsen.

Robert Luongo, who was involved in a scary first-period collision with Ovechkin, stopped 18 of 21 shots in the first two periods before giving way to Al Montoya. The Panthers fell to 1-1 on their six-game road trip and have lost three of four. The teams had split their previous meetings, both shootouts, including the longest in NHL history (20 rounds) in Florida's 2-1 win on Dec. 16.

After Ovechkin's 19th goal of the season, on a power play, made it 1-0 at 1:16 of the second period, the Panthers responded with a pair of goals in a 1:25 span. A collision involving three Capitals at the Florida blue line resulted in a two-man breakaway for Trocheck and Jussi Jokinen. Holtby stopped Trocheck's initial shot and Willie Mitchell's rebound attempt before Trocheck converted to tie the score.

The Panthers took a 2-1 lead at 5:22 of the period when Olsen's wrist shot deflected in off a Capitals de-

fender.

Laich pulled the Capitals even with a slap shot from the left circle at 12:13. And with 54 seconds left in the period, Alzner scored his career-high third goal of the season when his shot from just inside the blue line beat a screened Luongo to make it 3-2.

Andre Burakovsky, a rookie seeing his first action on the top line with Ovechkin and Nicklas Backstrom, scored his fifth goal of the season when he corralled a loose puck in the slot and wristed it past Montoya at 5:42 of the third.

Bjugstad made it 4-3 with 1:59 remaining, but Florida couldn't get the equalizer. Florida seemed to survive a scare late in the first period when Luongo came out to challenge Ovechkin for a loose puck. The pair collided near the right circle with Ovechkin's upper arm hitting Luongo's head.

Luongo remained down on the ice for a couple of minutes, but stayed in the game.

HURRICANES 2, BRUINS 1, SO

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Eric Staal scored the only goal in the shootout to lift Carolina past Boston.

Anton Khudobin got the start in goal for Carolina in place of Cam Ward, who played the previous four games. Khudobin, a former Bruin, made 19 saves and stopped Reilly Smith, Patrice Bergeron and Torey Krug in the shootout. Tuukka Rask made 35 saves for Boston, but couldn't stop Staal.

Patrick Dwyer opened the scoring for Carolina with 33.2 seconds left in the first period. Bergeron tied it for Boston, one-timing a pass from Brad Marchand past Khudobin in the second period. □



Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8), from Russia, goes airborne as he collides with Florida Panthers goalie Roberto Luongo (1) in the first period of an NHL hockey game, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, in Washington.

Associated Press



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Australian Open Series Roundup

Czech Republic beats Canada in Hopman Cup opener

DENNIS PASSA
AP Sports Writer

Lucie Safarova had two wins — one in the women's singles, another in the mixed doubles — to give the Czech Republic a 2-1 victory over Canada on the opening day of the Hopman Cup on Sunday. Safarova defeated Wimbledon runner-up Eugenie Bouchard 6-0, 6-4 to give the Czechs an early 1-0 lead, then teamed with Adam Pavlasek to beat Bouchard and Vasek Pospisil 6-4, 6-2 in the mixed doubles decider. In between, Pospisil secured the Canadians' only point with a 7-6 (5), 6-2 win over Pavlasek in the men's singles. Seventh-ranked Bouchard, coming off a breakthrough season that saw her reach the final at Wimbledon and two other Grand Slam semifinals, was no match for the No. 16-ranked Safarova in the tournament opener at Perth. "I was going for all my shots, and it worked well," Safarova said. "I tried to keep the pressure on, quickly. When she has time, she takes control." In the night session Sunday, Poland took a winning 2-0 lead over Australia after



Roger Federer of Switzerland plays a shot during a training session at the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015.

Associated Press

the singles matches. Agnieszka Radwanska beat Casey Dellacqua 6-2, 6-3 and Jerzy Janowicz defeated Matt Ebden 3-6, 7-5, 6-0, with Ebden double-faulting on match point. On Monday, Serena Williams was set to play her first match for the United States with John Isner against Italy, while Andy Murray leads

Britain against France. Williams said the high temperature of 41 degrees Celsius (106 Fahrenheit) forecast for Monday would suit her just fine as preparation for the frequently scorching conditions at the Australian Open in two weeks. "If anything it's going to help me for Melbourne," Williams said Sunday.

"Perth is one of the hottest places I've ever played, so it will be really good for the preparation in Melbourne, which is always super-hot." The Perth Arena roof will be shut during Williams' match against Italian Flavia Pennetta if the heat policy is enforced, or both players agree the conditions are unsafe.

At the Brisbane International, another of the Australian Open warm-up events ahead of the Jan. 19 start of the first Grand Slam of the year, hometown hope and former U.S. Open champion Samantha Stosur lost her first-round match 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 to Varvara Lepchenko of the United States on an opening day of upsets. Earlier, Ajla Tomljanovic beat sixth-seeded and former No. 1 Jelena Jankovic of Serbia 7-6 (6), 6-0. Tomljanovic, who was born in Croatia but is now based in Brisbane,

is planning to apply for Australian citizenship in the next few months.

In other matches, seventh-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain beat Tsvetana Pironkova of Bulgaria 3-6, 6-2, 6-1 and Kaia Kanepi of Estonia upset fifth-seeded Andrea Petkovic of Germany 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Maria Sharapova is the top-seeded player in the women's tournament, while Roger Federer headlines the field in the men's draw, alongside defending champion Lleyton Hewitt. □

Girgensons, 5 Blackhawks are 1st 6 NHL All-Stars

NEW YORK (AP) — The first batch of NHL All-Stars has a distinct Windy City feel as five members of the Chicago Blackhawks are among the initial six selections for the midseason showcase. Blackhawks forwards Patrick Kane, Jonathan Toews, defensemen Duncan Keith and Brent Seabrook, and goalie Corey Crawford earned spots Saturday based on fan voting. The only non-Chicago All-Star in the group is Buffalo Sabres center Zemgus Girgensons of Latvia, who was the leading vote-getter with 1,574,896. □



Chicago Blackhawks center Jonathan Toews walks out of the visiting team dugout at Nationals Park, Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014, for a team practice in preparation for the Winter Classic outdoor NHL hockey game to be held on New Year's Day. Associated Press



Sweden's Robin Norell, left, collides with Russia's Vladislav Kamenev during first-period semifinal hockey action at the world junior championship in Toronto, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015.

Associated Press

Russia beats Sweden 4-1 in world junior semifinals

TORONTO (AP) — Alexander Sharov scored twice and Russia beat Sweden 4-1 on Sunday to advance to the title game in the World Junior Hockey

Championship. Canada faced Slovakia in the second semifinal Sunday night. The championship game is Monday night. Ziat Paigin and Maxim

Mamin also scored for Russia and New York Rangers draft pick Igor Shestyorin made 26 saves. Carolina pick Lucas Wallmark scored for Sweden. □

Las Vegas airport preps for tech-savvy travelers

KIMBERLY PIERCEALL

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — While the gadgets of the future are only just arriving in Las Vegas for the annual International CES show, officials at the city's main airport are updating a decades-old terminal to cater to legions of tech-savvy travelers.

By Friday at McCarran International Airport, a couple of thousand outlets and USB ports under seats and inside bars and restaurants will be available for those looking for a power charge in Terminal 1 before heading home after the gadget convention.

The airport had already installed free airport-wide Wi-Fi ahead of the electronics show 10 years ago at a time when travelers had either a laptop or personal digital assistant, if that, and were at most checking e-mail or finishing up a PowerPoint presentation.

Now, there are movies to stream, virtual meetings to conduct, Internet games to play and books to download. More than 160,000 people attended the 2014 show, which takes over the Las Vegas Convention Center, the Sands Expo and several nearby hotels with more than 2 million square feet (190,000 square meters) of exhibit space.

Hot trends this year include Internet connectivity in everyday products such as cars and appliances and the growth of online video as an alternative to traditional television channels. New TVs with sharper images and better colors are also expected.

The four-day show begins Tuesday, though pre-show events take place Sunday and Monday.

Karen Chupka, senior vice president with CES and the Consumer Electronics Association, said her group is likely the biggest electricity and Internet user when it comes to town.

"We tend to push the limits of everything," she said adding that year after year, the city has beefed



In this Dec. 29, 2014, photo, a man uses a charging station at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

up its capabilities in response, such as relatively recent Internet upgrades to the convention center that show organizers are particularly excited about. The airport's addition of a couple of thousand more outlets and USB ports is, "great, that's absolutely wonderful," she said.

Travelers with gadgets often face a dilemma to grab a bite to eat in a restaurant or bar lacking outlets or slump against a wall, plug into a wall outlet near a boarding gate and watch as the battery is recharged.

"You don't have to make that choice," said Samuel Ingalls, assistant director of aviation information services at the airport.

The 500 under-seat power supplies with two outlets and two USB ports each and more power outlet upgrades to come are expected to cost the airport \$400,000.

The new Layover Bar in the airport's pre-security area, though, features outlets under the counter at each seat.

Each table at the new neighboring Wendy's has them, too.

Walls of unused payphones

in a terminal that got its start in 1963 and was expanded in the 1980s were replaced years ago with

counters, stools and outlets for recharging zones but it hasn't gotten a true outlet boost until now. □

FCC to vote next month on net neutrality rules

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal regulators are expected to vote next month on rules to govern how Internet service providers deal with the flow of content on their high-speed networks. The five-member Federal Communications Commission will consider then a proposal from Chairman Tom Wheeler on so-called net neutrality rules, agency spokeswoman Kim Hart said Friday. She was confirming reports in The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal on the planned timing of the vote. Details of the draft proposal weren't disclosed.

President Barack Obama has asked the FCC to put Internet service providers under the same rules as those imposed on tele-

phone companies 80 years ago. The aim is to protect net neutrality, the concept that everyone with an Internet connection should have equal access to all legal content online, including video, music, email, photos, social networks and maps.

The outcome could affect the prices consumers pay for access to entertainment, news and other online content.

The idea was a fundamental tenet of the Internet from its origin. But its fate has been in limbo since January 2014, when a federal appeals court struck down the FCC's guidelines and forced the agency to come up with new rules. The court ruling said the FCC has the authority to

regulate service providers' treatment of Internet traffic but that the agency failed to establish that its regulations don't overreach.

Advocates of regulating the service providers like utilities contend that the companies, if left unchecked, will create a two-tier system that funnels Internet traffic into fast and slow lanes. In that scenario, only the richest content providers will be able to pay the extra tolls to ensure that their online content is accessible through the fast lanes. Internet service providers reject such regulation. They assert they would be prevented from recovering some of the costs for connecting to content providers that use large quantities of broadband. □

Your Money: Time to Assess Your Financial Fitness

RON LIEBER
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When the Dow Jones industrial average closed above 18,000 for the first time late last month, you could practically hear the Champagne corks popping. Traders wore hats celebrating the occasion, and email news alerts were followed by dutiful articles. If you found yourself cheering from the sidelines, however, you're in danger of using the wrong marker to track your own financial progress.

There are many problems with the Dow. It tracks the stocks of just 30 of the largest U.S. companies, which makes the S&P 500 a much better index. Both of those indexes ignore the goings-on at small companies and any firms based elsewhere. A balanced investment portfolio ought to have no more than about 20 percent of its money in large U.S. stocks; once it does, the Dow ceases to be very useful as a proxy for one's own investment returns.

Still, trying to keep score of your overall financial fitness is a fine idea. So here are some personal markers that you can turn to this year - and every year - when noise from the outside world may give you a mistaken impression of how you're actually doing. Heart Rate

A number like 18,000 is enticing. It's big! It's round! It's higher than ever! (Oh no, and this week it has fallen below 18,000 again! Is that a sign that we've reached a peak?!) Check the numbers, though. The gain from 17,000 to 18,000 that happened during 2014 represented a not-particularly-exciting 5.9 percent increase. The move from 8,000 to 9,000 in 2009, just five years ago, was a 12.5 percent jump. As any index grows, a move from round number to round number will matter less.

Whenever I'm tempted to get exercised about the short-term performance of any particular market seg-

ment, I remind myself of the motto of a Colorado financial planner, Allan S. Roth of Colorado Springs: Dare to be Dull. I took the dare years ago and moved to a mix of low-cost investments that tracks assets and markets the world over. It's boring, and I love it. Savings Rate



Trying to keep score of your overall financial fitness is a fine idea, and using several personal markers to track the progress is most beneficial, some experts say.

(Robert Neubecker/The New York Times)

If you want to increase short-term returns, the best way to do so is to save more. This may seem obvious, but it's worth remembering: Even if you're saving 8 percent of your income, saving just 1 percentage point more instantly increases what you've set aside by 12.5 percent that year.

So what percentage of your income should you save each year? Jonathan Clements, who has done time as a Wall Street Journal columnist and as a Citigroup financial education executive, suggests a goal of 12 to 15 percent, including any employer match on retirement savings. If you're saving for a down payment or a child's college education, you'll need to save more. Ditto if you didn't start saving until

your 30s or 40s and hope to retire at all close to a traditional retirement age.

Most people don't save that much yet, and getting to that goal is hard. Try increasing savings by a percentage point or two each year, perhaps by devoting a big chunk of any salary raise to it if you can afford to.

Clements, in a new money guide whose title bears his name, lays out some numbers that may make saving more go down easier. If you're in the 25 percent federal tax bracket and earn an extra \$1,000, you'll most likely have only about \$650 left after state and federal income taxes and Social Security and Medicare levies. Spend that, and you may end up with closer to \$600 of goods thanks to sales taxes.

Save that money, however, and you might get a matching contribution from your employer if you haven't already maxed out the match in your workplace retirement savings plan. That could bring the \$1,000 up to \$1,500 or more on Day 1. Even if there's no match, you may get a tax deduction depending on how you save it, and decades of growth will allow the money to multiply.

Look at it that way, and saving becomes a pretty good deal.

Tax Rate

Putting up to \$15,000 or so out of reach of the claws of the taxing authorities each year can yield thousands of dollars in annual tax savings, which you can then use to increase your savings rate. Better still: That \$15,000 may represent money you're already spending anyway.

How so? Start with a household with two working adults who work for decent-size employers with a standard suite of benefits. Now, use an employer-provided dependent care account to put \$5,000 per family of pretax money aside for child care, day camp or similar expenses. Then. □

Fair Game: Whole Foods' high hurdle for investors

GRETCHEN MORGENSON
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Executives at most companies, of course, generally oppose the idea of shareholders nominating their own directors. But now the Securities and Exchange Commission, generally seen as the defender of shareholder interests, is siding with companies keen to keep investors out of the nomination process.

The skirmish unfolding at Whole Foods Market highlights an issue that is likely to play a prominent role in the 2015 proxy season. After the SEC ruled in favor of the company last month, allowing it to exclude from its proxy a shareholder proposal on director nominations, 10 other companies followed suit, asking the commission to rule the same way for them.

Currently, investors can withhold their support only for directors they consider objectionable; they can rarely nominate replacement candidates.

These restrictions have helped to keep corporate boards clubby and pro-management, investors say, resulting in outside executive pay and a lack of accountability.

In recent years, some institutional investors have been pushing companies to allow long-term shareholders to propose directors. Since 2012, when the SEC changed its rules on these matters, shareholders have been able to put forward proxy proposals on director nominations.

These proposals commonly carry relatively low ownership thresholds, stating that a shareholder or a small group of shareholders can nominate directors if they have held at least 3 percent of the company's shares for three years or more - a so-called three-and-three proposal. Some shareholders in companies want an even lower bar; one such investor, Norges Bank, has proposed allowing nominations from investors holding 1 percent of a company's shares.

In 2011, the SEC approved

a rule automatically giving shareholders the right to nominate directors if they held a 3 percent stake for three years. But a federal court overturned that rule in 2011 after a lawsuit filed against the SEC by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Institutional investors like Scott M. Stringer, comptroller of New York City, have taken up the three-and-three cause; some companies have agreed to let 3 percent holders nominate up to one-quarter of their directors.

They are CenturyLink, Chesapeake Energy, Hewlett-Packard, McKesson, Verizon and Western Union.

But many companies still resist opening the boardroom to investors. When their shareholders try to introduce proposals, these companies ask the SEC for permission to exclude them from their proxies, making sure that stockholders can't vote on them.

Whole Foods, the upscale grocery chain, is leading the charge. In September, James McRitchie, a longtime shareholder and publisher of a corporate governance website, put forward a typical three-and-three proposal to be voted on at the company's annual meeting early this year.

The company's lawyers wrote to the SEC, asking to exclude McRitchie's proposal from its proxy. Under SEC rules, companies can exclude a shareholder proposal from their proxy filings if it "directly conflicts with one of the company's own proposals to be submitted to shareholders at the same meeting."

Whole Foods made this argument, saying that it planned to put its own shareholder nomination proposal on the proxy and that McRitchie's would conflict with it. Whole Foods said that including both proposals would "create the potential for inconsistent and ambiguous results."

Continued on Page 27

Hens, Unbound

MARK BITTMAN

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The most significant animal welfare law in recent history - California's Proposition 2 - took effect December 31, 2014. The measure, which passed by a landslide vote in 2008, requires egg and some meat producers to confine their animals in far more humane conditions than they did before. No longer will baby calves (veal) or gestational pigs be kept in crates so small they cannot turn around and, perhaps more significantly, egg-laying hens may not be held in "battery" cages that prevent them from spreading their wings.

The regulations don't affect only hens kept in California. In 2010, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law a bill that extended the protections of Proposition 2 to out-of-state birds: You cannot sell an egg in California from a hen kept in extreme confinement anywhere. For an industry that has been able to do pretty much what it wants, this is a big deal: It bans some of the most egregious practices.

Does limiting confinement for hens mean the end of cages? Maybe. It might become impractical for growers to build bigger cages; that is, it might be easier simply to keep hens in groups that meet the new minimum area required per bird and so keep the hens "cage free." That's not a panacea, but it is an improvement.

The new minimum is not specified in numbers, but the courts have said that it "establishes a clear test that any law enforcement officer can apply, and that test does not require the law enforcement officer to have the investigative acumen of Columbo to determine if an egg farmer is in violation." Hens must be able to spread their wings without touching a cage or another bird. There is, however, another new state regulation - the so-called shell egg food safety regulation, aimed at reducing salmonella - enacted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. This requires a minimum of 116 square inches per bird, compared with the current 67 square inches, which is less space than an 8-by-10 photo and just a tad more than a standard iPad.

Proposition 2 trumps this rule, and birds probably need more than 116 square inches to spread their wings. In fact, many experts think something closer to 200 square inches is more realistic. But some farmers may think they can get away with 116; law enforcement will determine whether they're right, and noncompliance is a criminal offense.

The new regulations will probably raise the price of eggs. Surprisingly, as producers in California switch production systems to comply with the new law, eggs raised by so-called conventional means sometimes cost more than cage-free eggs. This belies the arguments that the conversion process is difficult or prohibitively expensive; it just shows that many producers failed



to take advantage of the five years between the extension of the new housing standards to all birds, and its taking effect, to adequately prepare. What have they been doing instead? Predictably, filing lawsuits fighting Proposition 2, all of which have failed.

That Proposition 2 is supported by a majority of people in the country's biggest agriculture state, and that its legitimacy has been supported by courts, shows the direction in which the raising of animals is headed. Gestation crates are on their way out, and battery cages will soon join them. With this measure, the table is set for similar action in states all over the country.

"We've worked on passing anti-confinement laws in 10 states now," says Paul Shapiro, a senior director at the Humane Society of the United States. At least three other states are to take up similar legislation in 2015.

The most important part of the new law may be that every whole egg sold in California must adhere to the standards set by Proposition 2, regardless of where it's from. And since California can't raise all the eggs eaten by its citizens, millions of those eggs - perhaps as many as a third consumed in the state - will come from elsewhere. From Iowa, for example, where more than 14 billion eggs are produced each year. (Interesting: There are just over 3 million people in Iowa, and nearly 60 million laying hens.) There has been talk of shortages, but they would be short-lived.

So, in California, just as you had to meet higher emission standards than required by federal law if you wanted to sell cars, now you must meet higher welfare standards for hens if you want to sell eggs. Whether farmers comply, or disobey, or leave the business remains to be seen. But Proposition 2 means a new norm; eventually it will be, well, normal.

Just how high are the standards set by Proposition 2? "By itself, the law means that many millions of animals will no longer be held in cramped cages, and that's huge," says Shapiro. "But the message it sends to the factory farming industry is clear: Business as usual - that is, subjecting animals to torturous conditions for their entire lives - is no longer going to be acceptable." □



A Democrat to Watch in 2015



FRANK BRUNI

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PROVIDENCE, R.I. - With the New Year comes a new slate of officeholders whose careers warrant close attention and whose fates could have broader political implications. Put Gina Raimondo near the top of that list.

She's the first woman to be elected governor of Rhode Island, and when she's inaugurated next week, she'll become, at 43, one of just two Democratic women, alongside Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire, at the helms of their states. But it's another prominent female Democrat from New England who provides a more interesting point of reference for Raimondo. I mean Elizabeth Warren, the senator from Massachusetts. As much as Warren has excited the left wing of her party, Raimondo has enraged them.

She just wrapped up four years as her state's treasurer, during which she successfully pushed an unusually ambitious overhaul of the pension system for state employees. It suspended cost-of-living adjustments, raised the retirement age by five years and left unions boiling mad. They opposed her in the Democratic gubernatorial primary. She marched to the governor's job in tension, not harmony, with a key element of the party's base.

Some in the party cast her as a

pawn of the finance industry and big corporations, partly because she once worked in venture capital. She started Rhode Island's first venture capital firm.

She doesn't talk about plutocrats with Warren's angry fire, not because she thinks they're above reproach but because she deems vilifying them less fruitful than reminding them that they, too, have a profound stake in a healthier America with a fairer distribution of wealth and more social mobility.

"I fall into the camp that income inequality is the biggest problem we face," she said Monday night over eggplant parmigiana in a Providence restaurant. An Italian-American, she grew up just outside the city and lives here now with her husband and their two young children.

She said that she has told Wall Street titans point blank that they should be paying higher federal taxes and leveling the playing field, but with this message: "I need you to double down on America. We need you. We need your brains, we need your money, we need your engagement - not because it's Wall Street versus Main Street, but because you're some of the smartest, richest people in the world, and you need to be a part of fixing America, because you want to live in an America that's the best country in the world."

She said that Democrats must always prioritize the underdogs, the strivers. And she spoke admiringly of Warren: "She says things that make people uncomfortable but need to be said."

But, she added, "My own rhetoric is not so 'us versus them.' I don't like fighting."

And she has highlighted additional concerns, such as the Democratic Party's frequent fealty to organized labor and its reluctance at times to shake up the status quo in order to find the money needed for social spending.

Her pension-reform campaign was fascinating for its blunt talk

of trade-offs, of sacrifices today for investments in tomorrow. She framed the cutbacks as progressive - as the only responsible liberalism - because without them, education, infrastructure, transportation and more would suffer. She thus provided a template for how politicians in Washington could try to rein in Social Security and Medicare spending, if they wished. An article in National Journal framed her efforts and the pushback against them as "a battle for the Democratic Party's future," and Matt Miller later wrote in The Washington Post that she could transform the "national conversation about how to achieve progressive goals in an aging America."

She sometimes speaks a language of metrics that makes her as stirring to some business-minded centrists as Warren is to many liberals. And if she manages to improve Rhode Island's famously beleaguered economy, she's teed up to be a national player, thanks to her youth and back story: a working-class upbringing followed by Harvard, then a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford, then Yale Law.

She's small - just under 5-foot-3 - and intense. When she mentions that she played rugby in school, it fits. When she describes her advantage on the field, it sounds as if she's talking about more than sport. "It's good to be little and fast," she said.

In focus groups, some Rhode Islanders called her "too harsh," she said, a judgment seemingly connected to her wardrobe of suits. "Then you show them pictures of me in casual clothes and they're like, 'Oh, she seems nice.' It's like, if you're a strong woman, you can't also be nice. It's really that simple."

Will she be a strong governor? She starts out dogged by a sweeping court challenge to those pension reforms.

But this much is clear: She takes risks, colors outside the lines and seeks a tone all her own. That's worthy of note. □

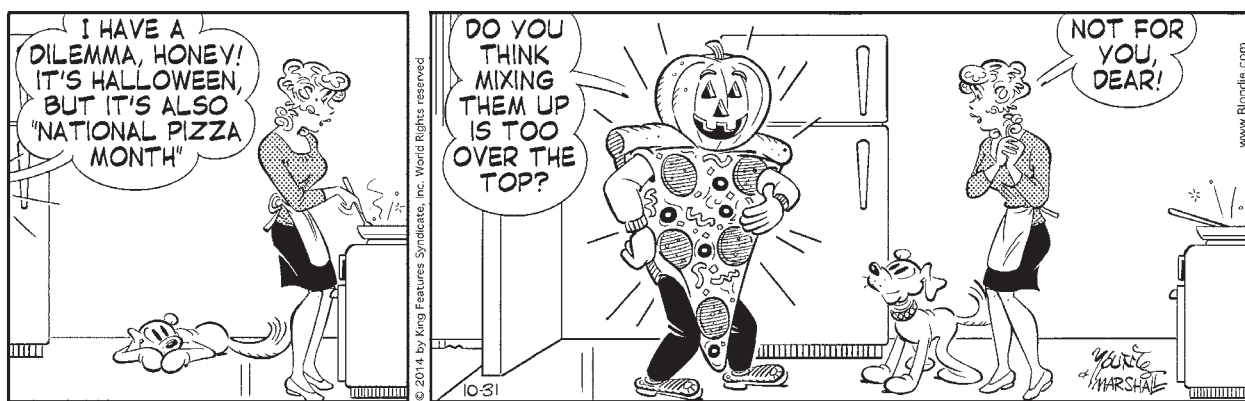
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3		9				1		2
			2		7			
	4		9	3	5		6	
9				1				4
	2		6	4	8		7	
			8		1			
8		5				9		3

Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

10/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	4	2	1	9	8	6	3	5	7
	7	6	8	3	5	1	4	9	2
	9	5	3	2	7	4	1	6	8
	1	8	7	4	2	9	5	3	6
	2	3	9	5	6	8	7	1	4
	5	4	6	7	1	3	2	8	9
	8	9	4	1	3	2	6	7	5
	3	7	2	6	9	5	8	4	1
	6	1	5	8	4	7	9	2	3

ACROSS

- 1 Eat one's soup noisily
- 6 Not up yet
- 10 Group of actors
- 14 Frolic
- 15 Elephant color
- 16 Sore
- 17 Make amends
- 18 Merit; deserve
- 19 ___-alikes; twins
- 20 Threatening
- 22 Accumulate, as bank interest
- 24 Suffix for enjoy or amuse
- 25 Quantities
- 26 Take; receive
- 29 Overindulge a child
- 30 Word of disgust
- 31 Male singer
- 33 Hot ___ sundae; ice cream treat
- 37 Dishonest one
- 39 AM/FM device
- 41 In just a bit
- 42 Pass into
- 44 Sprinkles at the table
- 46 JKL followers
- 47 Verse writers
- 49 Throws
- 51 School subject
- 54 ___ at; bawl out
- 55 Arouse; stir up
- 56 Continuance of life, despite difficulties
- 60 Reiner or Jung
- 61 Gator's cousin
- 63 Steer clear of
- 64 Patella's place
- 65 Wood often used for boats
- 66 Socially inept people
- 67 Stitches
- 68 Agile; lively
- 69 Lovers' meeting

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21			22	23			
24					25							
26	27	28			29							
30				31	32			33	34	35	36	
37			38	39				40	41			
42				43	44			45	46			
47				48				49	50			
51	52	53					54					
55					56					57	58	59
60					61	62			63			
64					65				66			
67					68				69			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/31/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

5 Rule	ABCS	LLAMA	RITE
6 Representative	LEAP	AILED	ERRS
7 Boast	MAKE	CAINE	COOP
8 Cornucopia	STEAMER	APLENTY	
9 Person who's a bundle of energy	KID	ACTED	
10 Math class	RILED	ONE	GEARS
11 Oak tree nut	USER	PAD	MISFIT
12 Holler	BAA	PATRIOT	IDO
13 Little kids	EASIER	ELM	TREK
21 Bury	SCENT	AWL	WHERE
23 Hairdo	FADES	SEE	
25 Spring month	SMALLER	MANAGER	
26 Qualified	LAVA	CIGAR	TOGO
27 Abel's brother	OMIT	KAPPA	ERGO
28 Informal talk	WADE	SLASH	REST

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10/31/14

DOWN

- 1 Fraudulent way to make money
- 2 Overdue
- 3 Come ___; find
- 4 Give a new moniker to

- 45 Able to pay one's debts
- 48 Builds
- 50 Dieter's piece of pie
- 51 Rubes
- 52 Foolish
- 53 Threaded fastener

- 54 Unpleasant
- 56 Fly high
- 57 Fluctuate from time to time
- 58 ___ in; inserts
- 59 In case
- 62 Title for Pelosi or Boehner: abbr.

Continued from Page 24

"A spokeswoman for Whole Foods declined to comment further. But McRitchie's proposal posed a direct challenge to Whole Foods' version. The ownership hurdle for an investor under Whole Foods' planned proposal was a whopping 9 percent. Not only was that three times McRitchie's threshold, but no outside investor holds such a stake in the company. The biggest outside shareholder owns just over 5 percent. Nevertheless, on Dec. 1, SEC officials agreed with Whole Foods on the conflict issue and said it would face no enforcement action if it excluded the 3 percent proposal from its proxy.

Other companies seem to have been closely watching the SEC's ruling. Since the Dec. 1 decision, 10 other companies have asked the SEC for permission to exclude nomination proposals from 3 percent shareholders. They include Arch Coal, Cabot Oil & Gas and Marathon Oil, and they make the same argument about conflicting proposals. The SEC has not yet ruled on those companies' requests. On Dec. 23, McRitchie appealed to all the SEC members to reverse the decision on the Whole Foods proxy. He argued that the SEC's decision "effectively limits shareholders to consider-

ation of proposals sponsored by the board of directors and eliminates any opportunity for shareholders to present alternative criteria."

A spokesman for the SEC declined to comment on the Whole Foods proposals, noting that the commission had not yet answered McRitchie's appeal.

On Tuesday, a few days after I had asked Whole Foods why it had chosen an onerous 9 percent threshold, the company filed its proxy asking shareholders to approve a new bylaw for director nominations. This proposal lowered the bar, to 5 percent from 9 percent: One investor holding at least 5 percent of its stock for at least five years may nominate one director or 10 percent of the board, Whole Foods said. But even this threshold is too high, many investors say. The largest pension funds typically hold less than 1 percent of any company's shares. At Whole Foods, only two outside shareholders own stakes of 5 percent; eight stockholders own stakes of at least 3 percent.

Moreover, when writing its ill-fated nominations rule, the SEC determined that requiring a 5 percent stake was unrealistic. After analysis, the SEC said, the data "suggest that a uniform 5 percent ownership requirement would be substantially more difficult to satisfy than the 3 percent requirement we are adopting." □

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Oceanfront \$14,500k
3 BEDRM OV \$17k

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24/7



In this Saturday, July 8, 2006, file photo, a Cassin's auklet chick is displayed at the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge, in San Francisco. Mass die-offs of the small, white-bellied gray birds have been reported from British Columbia to San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Associated Press

Pacific Coast sea bird die-off puzzles scientists

SALEM, Oregon (AP) —

Scientists are trying to figure out what's behind the deaths of seabirds that have been found by the hundreds along the Pacific Coast since October.

Mass die-offs of the small, white-bellied gray birds known as Cassin's auklets have been reported from British Columbia to San Luis Obispo, California.

It's normal for some seabirds to die during harsh winter conditions, especially during big storms, but the scale of the current die-off is unusual.

"To be this lengthy and geographically widespread, I think is kind of unprecedented," Philip Johnson, executive director of the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, told the Salem Statesman Journal. "It's an interesting and somewhat mysterious event."

The birds appear to be starving to death, so experts don't believe a toxin is the culprit, said

Julia Burco, a wildlife veterinarian for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

But why the birds can't find food is a mystery.

Researchers say it could be the result of a successful breeding season, leading to too many young birds competing for food. Unusually violent storms might be pushing the birds into areas they're not used to or preventing them from foraging. Or a warmer, more acidic ocean could be affecting the supply of tiny zooplankton, such as krill, that the birds eat.

The U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center in Wisconsin is conducting additional necropsies on dead birds, researchers said. Robert Ollikainen of Tillamook, Oregon, found 132 dead birds on the beach there, including 126 Cassin's auklets on Dec. 26. "It was pretty dramatic," Ollikainen said. □



In this Jan. 28, 2014, file photo, morning commuters bundle up in Chicago.

Associated Press

Ready to shiver? Arctic air to put America on ice

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Much of America is about to get the Arctic shivers. Meteorologists are forecasting frigid polar air will plunge much of the central and eastern U.S. into sub-freezing temperatures next week.

National Weather Service meteorologist Paul Kocin, an expert on winter storms, said it is a classic pattern

of massive blasts of Arctic air hitting just about everyone east of the Rockies. He said it will rival last year's January Arctic outbreak that introduced the phrase "polar vortex" to America.

"This is going to be a big cold outbreak, pretty windy as well," Kocin said. "It's going to drive all the way down south."

Kocin predicts a small Midwestern band of intense

snow along with the cold, with some also in parts of the Northeast.

Even though it is several days in advance, meteorologists are pretty sure about this forecast. Kocin said many of the best computer models are saying the same thing.

This is all coming from cold air escaping from the Arctic. The center of the cold air will be around Quebec, Canada. □

'The Hobbit' tops box office for third weekend

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Hollywood kicked off the New Year on a positive note, with three films vying closely for the weekend box-office title that nevertheless remained with "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies" for the third straight week.

Peter Jackson's Middle-earth finale took in \$21.9 million for Warner Bros., according to studio estimates Sunday, narrowly edging out the Disney musical "Into the Woods" (\$19.1 million) and Angelina Jolie's World War II survival tale "Unbroken" (\$18.4 million).

The weekend's lone new wide-release, the Relativity horror sequel "The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death," landed in fourth place with \$15.1 million.

The first weekend of 2015 gave Hollywood the chance to begin turning the page on a rough 2014 in which box-office revenue slid 5 percent and attendance dropped to its lowest level in nearly 20



This photo provided by Warner Bros. Entertainment shows Luke Evans, center, as Bard in the fantasy adventure "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies," a production of New Line Cinema and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures (MGM), releases by Warner Bros. Pictures and MGM.

Associated Press

years. With a closely contested weekend at the multiplexes, overall business was strong, up 5.5 percent from the same weekend last year, according to box-office firm Rentrak.

In its second week of limited release, Sony Pictures' controversial "The Interview," depicting the fictional assassination of North

Korea leader Kim Jong Un, earned an estimated \$1.1 million theatrically. A representative for Sony said digital figures likely wouldn't be announced Sunday.

In its first four days of online streaming and sale, the comedy made \$15 million, Sony said last week. Since then, the film has expanded to video-on-demand

via cable operators and on more digital platforms like Apple's iTunes.

Several Oscar contenders began to attract larger numbers of moviegoers, as Hollywood's awards season picks up steam. The Golden Globes are Sunday, Jan. 11.

Playing at 754 theaters, "The Imitation Game," the Wein-

stein Co.'s code-breaker thriller about World War II hero Alan Turing took in \$8.1 million in its sixth week. (By comparison, "The Hobbit" played at more than 3,800 theaters.) The Reese Witherspoon drama "Wild" also added \$4.5 million for a five-week \$25.8 million total for Fox Searchlight. Opening in limited release at four locations, J.C. Chandor's New York thriller "A Most Violent Year" debuted with a theater average of \$47,000. The acclaimed A24 release, starring Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain, will soon expand. Demand, though, was strongest for "American Sniper," Clint Eastwood's drama about Navy SEAL sniper Chris Kyle (Bradley Cooper). In its second week playing in just four theaters, "American Sniper" attracted a remarkable \$160,000 per-screen-average. The film opens wide on January 16. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. □

Longtime ESPN sportscaster Stuart Scott dies at 49

RICK FREEMAN

AP Sports Writer

Stuart Scott, the longtime "SportsCenter" anchor and ESPN personality known for his enthusiasm and ubiquity, died Sunday. He was 49. Scott had fought cancer since a diagnosis in late 2007, the cable TV sports network said, but remained dedicated to his craft even as he underwent chemotherapy, radiation and surgery.

ESPN President John Skipper said in a statement that Scott was "a true friend and a uniquely inspirational figure" and that his "energetic and unwavering devotion to his family and to his work while fighting the battle of his life left us in awe, and he leaves a void that can never be replaced."

On Sunday morning, NFL

Network broadcaster Rich Eisen's voice broke as he reported the death of his good friend, with whom he worked on "SportsCenter" broadcasts.

"I love this man," Eisen said. ESPN anchor Hannah Storm called him "our colleague, our friend and our inspiration" as she reported the news.

Born in Chicago, Scott attended high school in North Carolina. After graduating from the University of North Carolina in 1987, Scott worked at three TV stations in the southern U.S. before joining ESPN for the 1993 launch of its ESPN2 network, hosting short sports update segments.

He often anchored the 11 p.m. "SportsCenter," where he would punctuate emphatic highlights with "Boo-ya!" or note a slick move as

being "as cool as the other side of the pillow."

Scott went on to cover countless major events for the network, including the Super Bowl, NBA finals, World Series and NCAA Tournament. He also interviewed President Barack Obama, joining him for a televised game of one-on-one basketball.

Scott was first diagnosed with cancer in November 2007 after he had to leave the "Monday Night Football" game between Miami and Pittsburgh to have his appendix removed. Doctors discovered a tumor during surgery. He underwent chemotherapy again in 2011.

Scott made a point of continuing to live his life — at work and outside of it.

"Who engages in mixed martial arts training in the



In a July 16, 2014 file photo, sportscaster Stuart Scott accepts the Jimmy V award for perseverance, at the ESPY Awards at the Nokia Theatre, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

midst of chemotherapy treatments?" Skipper said in ESPN's statement. "Who leaves a hospital procedure to return to the set?" Scott is survived by his parents, O. Ray and Jacqueline Scott; siblings Stephen Scott, Synthia Kearney and Susan Scott; his daughters Taelor, 19, and Sydni, 15; and girlfriend Kristin Spodobalski.

Scott accepted the Jimmy V Perseverance Award at

the ESPYs, the ESPN sports award show, in July. The award is named for former N.C. State coach Jim Valvano, who died of cancer in 1993.

During his speech, Scott noted: "When you die, that does not mean that you lose to cancer."

"You beat cancer by how you live, why you live, and the manner in which you live," Scott said. "So live. Live. Fight like hell." □



Brad Pitt presents the breakthrough performance award - actor at the 26th annual Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards Gala on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015, in Palm Springs, Calif.

Associated Press

Brad Pitt leads sing-along at film-awards gala

MIKE CIDONI LENNOX
AP Entertainment Writer

PALM SPRINGS, California

(AP) — The first star-studded film-award ceremony of the new year was literally something to sing about.

While not an honoree himself, actor-producer Brad Pitt stole the spotlight with a sing-along for a few moments Saturday night at the annual black-tie gala for the Palm Springs International Film Festival.

Pitt traveled some 100 miles (160 kilometers) east of Los Angeles to the desert town of Palm Springs, California, to introduce British actor David Oyelowo, an honoree at the gala whose profile is only now on the rise in the U.S.

Pitt is a producer of director Ava DuVernay's historical epic "Selma," in which Oyelowo portrays civil-rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The festival honored Oyelowo with its Breakthrough Performance Award for an actor.

In his introduction, Pitt professed his admiration for Oyelowo — both as a colleague and friend — and, at one point, Pitt led the audience in a sing-along

with lyrics spinning around Oyelowo's often-mispronounced last name. (It sounds like "oh-yellow-oh," by the way.)

The gala, which attracts numerous locally based Academy voters who now have ballots in hand, traditionally is the first of each calendar year's award-season ceremonies, which include approximately two-dozen events significant enough to attract major movie stars between now and the Oscars, set for Feb. 22 in Hollywood.

"This is the first time I am a part of (the two-month award season)," said Morton Tyldum, director of the Golden Globe-nominated drama "The Imitation Game" earlier in the evening while doing red carpet interviews. "When I saw the schedule," Tyldum continued, "I was in shock,"

Not so award-season veteran and Palm Springs honoree Reese Witherspoon ("Wild"), who said, "It's a great opportunity for all of us to get together and celebrate this wonderful year of film."

The actress, an Oscar winner for "Walk the Line"

(2005), said, "Wonderful performances, wonderful direction and producing. And I feel like it has been a real great, strong year."

At points, love was in the air on the red carpet, as festival honoree Eddie Redmayne ("The Theory of Everything") posed for photographers with his new wife, public-relations executive Hannah Bagshawe, and "Imitation" star Benedict Cumberbatch, briefly stopped for a few snaps with his fiancée, theater director Sophie Hunter.

Oyelowo actually did photo sessions: one with wife, actress Jessica Oyelowo, and three of their four children. The actor returned to pose for photos with DuVernay.

Both Oyelowo and DuVernay are nominated for Golden Globe awards, to be handed out next weekend in Beverly Hills.

"The last time I was at the Golden Globes, I was a publicist for (the movie) 'Dreamgirls,'" DuVernay recalled. "I was in a black suit on the (standing) side of the room. This time, I have an actual seat. I'm very happy about that."



In a Thursday, Sept. 18, 2014 file photo, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg speaks to students during an special assembly at Sequoia High School in Redwood City, Calif.

Associated Press

Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg starts reading program

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Zuckerberg is attempting to add a little more "book" to Facebook.

The Facebook founder and CEO announced on his page recently that he has vowed to read a book every other week in 2015, with an emphasis on learning about different beliefs and cultures.

Zuckerberg created a "Year in Book" page and urged his friends to join him in the project. As of Sun-

day afternoon, it had more than 89,000 likes.

The first book in his program, Moises Naim's "The End of Power," was out of stock Sunday on Amazon.com and had a sales ranking of No. 203. The book was first published in 2013.

Oprah Winfrey remains the gold standard for choosing books, though clubs have been started by "Good Morning America" and the "Today" show, among others. □

Mercury Records co-founder Irwin Steinberg dies at 94

BRATTLEBORO, Vermont

(AP) — A co-founder of Mercury Records and an innovator in the digital music industry has died. Irwin Steinberg was 94.

Publicist Scott Gorenstein says Steinberg died Dec. 29 at his home in Brattleboro, Vermont.

A Chicago native, Steinberg graduated from the University of Chicago and served in the Air Corps before beginning his career in the music business.

After starting up Mercury

Records and serving at its helm for several years, he became chairman and CEO of Polygram Records, where he remained for more than 30 years.

He later taught courses on the music business at Columbia College of the Arts in Chicago and was a consultant to numerous digital music enterprises, including MusicMaker.

He is survived by his wife, Dominique Moyse, three children, four grandchildren and two sisters. □



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